

## **Commercial Harvesting Permit Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge & Canaveral National Seashore**

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This Commercial Harvesting Permit covers activities in waters administered by Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore (Mosquito Lagoon, north Indian River Lagoon, and north Banana River.) Commercial harvesting of seafood products from these waters is authorized with the purchase of this permit, together with applicable Federal, state, and local licensing requirements. The permit fee is \$150.00 (check or money order) and is good from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, annually. This permit can be acquired from either the Canaveral National Seashore or Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge administrative offices. If you would like to purchase it at the Visitor Center in New Smyrna Beach, please call (386) 428-3384 before arriving. Each individual harvesting, handling, or transporting seafood products from these waters must obtain and carry this permit. Commercial activities covered under this permit include, but are not limited to crabbing, clamming, oysters, fishing, and harvesting shrimping for commercial purposes.

### Conditions of Permit:

- Commercial harvesting is allowed in the Indian River, Banana River, and Mosquito Lagoon except for Kennedy Space Center security areas. All impounded waters (waters inside a dike) are closed to commercial harvesting.
- Each vessel used for commercial harvesting operations must be identified on the Commercial Harvesting Permit. Please list boat registration number (FL#), V number (Crabbing,) and KL number (clamming #) when you obtain your permit. A KL license is required for commercial clamming in Brevard County waters (waters south of marker 29 in Mosquito Lagoon>)
- A Saltwater Products License (SPL) is required to obtain a permit.
- Oysters and clams must be taken by hand and/or hand rake. Mechanical devices are not permitted.
- Certain waters can be closed to shell fishing harvesting periodically. It is your responsibility to keep informed of these changes. The Florida Marine Patrol publishes maps depicting current closures and area status is available 24 hours a day by calling (321) 383-2740.
- Nighttime boat launching (between sunset and sunrise) is permitted only by Bairs Cove, Beacon 42 ramp, and the Public Boat Ramp on A1A at Canaveral National Seashore in New Smyrna Beach.
- Air thrust boats and personal watercraft are prohibited in all refuge waters. North of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) Channel Marker 19 in Canaveral National Seashore, personal watercrafts are restricted. Contact Canaveral National Seashore for more details.
- Numerous manatee protection zones are found within the waters of the Refuge and Seashore. All protection zones are clearly identified with signs. Heed all signs and abide by posted limits. Boats are restricted to Idle Speed in Bairs Cove and slow speed/minimum wake in Haulover Canal. All waters of Mosquito Lagoon north of Haulover Canal are regulated under state rules. A Manatee Sanctuary is established in the Banana River and motorized vessels are excluded from most of these waters. See Refuge Sports Fishing Regulations for more information.
- Commercial fishing is not permitted in Eddy Creek, Patillo Creek, and KARS Marina from December 15<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Camping and open fires are permitted north of ICW Marker #19 in designated sites and under permit from Canaveral National Seashore. Camping is not permitted within the Refuge.
- Firearms are prohibited in all areas.
- Two "Pole & Troll" Zones have been established in Mosquito Lagoon and are delineated with buoys. Internal combustion motors must be shut off within the zones (except in the posted channels) and vessels drafting more than 12 inches at rest must not enter. Boats may operate internal combustion engines only in the posted channels but electric trolling motors may be used anywhere within the zones.
- State catch logs must be maintained and will be monitored.
- Violation of permit regulations or state laws could result in revocation of your commercial harvesting permit.

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SIGNATURE

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DATE

*Note: Please direct specific questions regarding the above laws, regulations or requirements to a Canaveral National Seashore Law Enforcement Ranger or Merritt Island Fish & Wildlife officer.*